

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC : ITEM 17 - FOOD PROBLEMS (WORLD FOOD COUNCIL)

1. DURING WEEK OF JULY 26, PPCC HELD EARNEST BUT NON-CONFRONTATIONAL DEBATE ON THE REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL ON ITS 2ND SESSION.

2. LDCS GENERALLY NOTED CONTINUING URGENCY OF WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS AND CALLED FOR VIGOROUS FORWARD MOVEMENT IN IMPLEMENTING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS. WHILE MOST LDCS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT 2ND WFC SESSION WAS NOT AS BAD AS FIRST SESSION, GUINEA, MEXICO AND OAU REPS WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF DC MINISTERS FOR THEIR LACK OF "POLITICAL WILL" WHICH HAS LED TO CONTINUED STAGNATION. THEY ALSO REFERRED TO NEED FOR ACTION ON FOOD TRADE PROBLEMS ALONG THE LINES OF THE NIEO.

3. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE MORE UPBEAT IN THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF WFC SESSION AND GENERALLY PROFESSED OPTIMISM

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ABOUT POTENTIAL RESULTS OF NEXT WFC MEETING. CANADA MADE

DETAILED CRITIQUE, POINTING TO GAP BETWEEN WFC'S PERFORMANCE AND WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED OF IT, AND URGING THAT WFC AVOID THE "SET SPEECH" APPROACH TO ITS WORK--A MALAISE FROM WHICH SO MANY UN AGENCIES ARE SUFFERING. CANADA URGED THAT WFC GIVE IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION TO ONE OR TWO ISSUES EACH SESSION AND TAKE CONCRETE DECISIONS ON THEM.

4. ALL DELEGATIONS COMMENTED ON IFAD, VOICING SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS MADE BUT EXPRESSING REGRET AT SAME TIME THAT IFAD NOT YET IN EXISTENCE. NUMBER OF LDC REPS (IRAN, MEXICO, OAU) URGED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NEEDED TO REACH \$1 BILLION TARGET, WITH IRAN POINTING TO FACT THAT OPEC CONTRIBUTION IS CONTINGENT ON DC CONTRIBUTION, AND MEXICO SPECIFICALLY REJECTING IDEA OF PARITY BETWEEN DC AND OPEC CONTRIBUTIONS AS PREJUDICIAL TO COHESIVENESS OF G-77.

5. THERE WAS NO SERIOUS ATTEMPT BY G-77 TO PUSH THE SEVEN UNAGREED G-77 DRAFT RESES APPENDED TO WFC REPORT DESPITE LOBBYING EFFORT BY ROME G-77 COORDINATOR (CAMARA, GUINEA) WHO APPARENTLY CAME TO GENEVA FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE COUNCIL SIMPLY TRANSMITTED THEM TO THE 31ST GA FOR CONSIDERATION, ALONG WITH THE WFC REPORT ITSELF. A WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF THE DRAFT RES DEALING WITH THE UN SYSTEM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OAU INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD, WHICH THE WFC HAD TRANSMITTED (IN ITS ORIGINAL VERSION) TO ECOSOC FOR CONSIDERATION WAS, HOWEVER, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL BY CONSENSUS. (SEE GENEVA 6296)

6. IN BRIEF, LOW-KEY INTERVENTION, USDEL EXPRESSED MILD ENCOURAGEMENT OVER PROGRESS ACHIEVED AT WFC SESSION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO IFAD, POINTED TO FACT THAT WFC COULD NOT BE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO SOLVE LONGSTANDING, COMPLEX WORLD FOOD PROBLEM OVERNIGHT, AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR 69TH FAO COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO HAVE WFC SECRETARIAT FUNDED FULLY FROM UN REGULAR BUDGET, A POSITION WHICH HAD BEEN WIDELY SUPPORTED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS. CATTO

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